

State News.

FROM CURRITUCK TO CHEROKEE.

(Items of Interest Gleaned From our Correspondents and Exchanges in all Parts of the State.)

Sheriff Page, says at least 500 white men failed to pay poll tax in Wake, and something like 1,200 negroes.

The father of James Wilcox has published a card in the Charlotte Observer, denying that his son is a gambler or a drunkard, and declaring that the report that he and his son were not on speaking terms is false.—News and Observer.

J. T. Patrick was in town Monday talking up a shoe factory for this place. He succeeded in interesting the local merchants and the factory will probably be in operation in the near future.—Southern Pines letter in Aberdeen Telegram.

Goldboro Argus: The scarcity of corn is going to be a blessing in disguise to many farmers. They are planting more and giving it more attention than heretofore, and with good seasons more will be gathered this year than in many years previous.

The following item from the Chapel Hill News simply adds emphasis to the fact that "boys will be boys": There were several gates taken off, and the steps that could be moved, were taken from the houses on Main Street Saturday night. There is a gate on top of the store next to this office.

At a meeting held here last night it was decided to hold a conference in Raleigh June 12th and perfect organization to work for the establishment of a reformatory by the next Legislature. Among those actively interested are Dr. T. N. Ivey, Capt. C. B. Denson, Senator Broughton, A. L. Chamberlain, C. H. Poe, I. C. Blair and others.—Raleigh Times.

Asheville special to the News and Observer: The idea of a fusion ticket composed of Republicans and Democrats, has taken a strong hold of Republicans here, and there is good reason to believe that the Republican Party will be for it. It is proposed to divide county and legislative offices, but all the legislative ticket is to be pledged to the reelection of Senator Pritchard.

News and Observer: Mr. John Blake, of Cheraw, S. C., was in the city yesterday after a long drive through the country. He came to see his wife, who is ill in the hospital here, and as there had been so many railroad wrecks of late he chose his own route, making something like forty miles a day, and consuming three days in the trip. He left on his return trip at eleven o'clock yesterday.

A competitive examination for the appointment of a naval cadet for the Second North Carolina district to the Naval Academy at Annapolis will be held in Weldon, June 5th. All applicants must have resided in the district two years and be not under 15 or over 20 years of age. Each applicant is requested to send Representative Claud Kitchin his full name, age, residence and politics.—Exchange.

Coollees dispatch: The Coollees Mills will give the operatives the benefit of a graded school. A modern school building will be erected within the next few months and all arrangements perfected for the opening of the school by September 1st. It is probable that several public schools will be consolidated and that the Coollees district will number nearly 1,000 school subjects.

A cotton mill man said to-day that he did not in the least believe the yarn spinners would accept the Underwood proposition. He said he was at the Charlotte meeting this week and "kept tab;" that 84 mills were represented, with 574,000 spindles, by 75 persons; that two of the mills in this list are weaving mills and have no idea of going into the combination. These weaving mills have 24,000 spindles, he says.—Exchange.

Biblical Recorder: Observe that the three Vice Presidents, the Secretary, one of the Directors and two of the Executive Committee of the Conference for Education in the South are North Carolinians. They are respectively Messrs. J. Y. Joyner, Walter Page, E. C. Branson, A. B. Hunter, C. D. McIver and W. A. Blair. This speaks sufficiently for the commanding activity of North Carolina in universal education.

The cultivation of Sumatra wrapper under cover is enthusiastically urged by the Kinston, N. C., Free Press, which is advised by the State Agricultural Department that the soil of that section is suitable for this type of tobacco. Editor Herbert believes that independent fortunes may be made by the farmers. The best that can be done—or should be undertaken—in North Carolina this year is to experiment a little in this direction.—Southern Tobacco Journal.

Raleigh Cor. Charlotte Observer: Farmers assure me that the acreage in corn will be 50 per cent. greater than ever before.—The fact that the Imperial Tobacco Company, the big English trust, will build tobacco factories at Greenville and Kinston, is news which at once interests and gratifies the North Carolina leaf dealers. The company is, as Col. John W. Hinsdale, its attorney for this State, says, right in the fight with the American Tobacco Company. The growers don't care how lively the scrap is. It is said that the Imperial will have buyers at a dozen leaf markets in this State.

Hon. R. B. Glenn is out in a card formally declaring his candidacy for the Senatorship, and as in the case of his neighbor and townsman, Mr. Watson, he prefers a primary. Mr. Craig is opposed to a primary. It is not yet known whether Gen. J. S. Carr will enter the fight. If he does he will probably favor a primary, also Messrs. Frank I. Osborne and Sydenham Alexander of Charlotte are supposed to still be in the race, especially the former. The State Convention will settle the question of the *modus operandi* of settling the candidacy between the various aspirants.—Morganton News-Herald.

Whiteville Press: We are hearing much complaint of the scarcity of farm labor, probably because the new industries are offering more attractions to the working man.—Judge Robinson can preside with all the dignity that befits a Judge of the Court and off of the bench joins in with the jocular crowd. Last Tuesday afternoon, for want of better amusement, he accepted a banter to run a race—and with one very fat man—a 275 pounder—forth to the streets they repaired for the contest—the Judge and his fat opponent. From observers who witnessed the race we have it that the Judge came in a close second.

Raleigh Cor. Charlotte Observer: The Legislature will be asked to make provision for a hall of records and for a State arsenal; two public buildings which are certainly needed. If any one could see the condition of the public documents in the old enrolling clerk's office on the third floor of the capitol no further argument would be necessary. In the executive office a great part of the papers are tied up in paper and piled on top of bookcases. They are not filed at all, but merely tied together and look like bundles of clothing. North Carolina is surely able to make better provision than this for the public documents.

Raleigh Cor. Charlotte Observer: It was announced in this correspondence quite lately that the widow of Festus Miller, clerk of Pamlico court, had sued the State in the Supreme Court for some \$3,300 more of those pesky "oyster claims." The Auditor years ago issued a warrant for several thousand dollars of these claims, but the Treasurer declined to pay. The Supreme Court said payment must be made. The Legislature appropriated some \$1,700 and this was distributed. The claimants were informed that they ought to be more than satisfied with this sum. Now they want more. It is very safe to bet that they will not get another cent and your correspondent has excellent reason for so saying.

Asheville special to Charlotte Observer: There is being organized in this city a movement which promises to do much for Asheville and her people. Its purpose is to encourage the growing of flowers among the children of the public schools. The plan is simple. A prize or a number of prizes are to be awarded to the children that furnish the best display at a flower show which will be held some time during the fall. The children will each receive a card on which will be printed a list of flower seeds and the child is to use its own judgment in the selection of the seed, and when it has reached a decision to mark the name of the flower on the card and send it in; then the seeds will be distributed by the association.

Carthage special to Charlotte Observer: The trial of S. R. McIntosh and C. J. Jones for the lynching of George Ritten, which has had the attention of the court here since last Tuesday, resulted in the acquittal of the defendants late Saturday evening. The judge issued a bench warrant just before the close of court for John D. Barrett, the principal State's witness in the case. The warrant charges Barrett with altering the wording of a letter which he produced in court and which had been written by McIntosh to Barrett before the indictment was brought. The alleged change made McIntosh's letter say that every word of the accusation against him for killing Ritten was "true" whereas it is charged that the original writing was "a lie." Barrett has not yet been apprehended.

Fancy Hill Cor. Landmark: At the academy Saturday night a regular literary society was organized to meet every week. Every neighborhood ought to have such a society. It would be a means of intellectual culture. Young people are going to have somewhere to meet every week or two, anyway, and if they had a society they would meet there instead of having their parties, which are generally conducted in such a way as to do them more harm than good; and they would enjoy the society just as well if not better after getting used to it, and at the same time be learning something useful.—Mr. Archer, who had a letter in the Landmark a few weeks ago on sheep raising, has been trying to work up an interest in that industry in this community, and he has awakened some interest. I believe many of our farmers would like to quit raising so much cotton if they could get started in something else that would be profitable. No doubt more wool and less cotton would be better for this section of country, hilly as it is.

Washington Cor. Charlotte Observer: While the agricultural bill was under consideration in the House to day, some amendments of particular interest to North Carolinians were disposed of, particularly that with reference to the proposition to increase the appropriation for soil surveys. Representative Henry, of Connecticut, an influential member of the agricultural committee, strongly voiced his approval, as did also Representative Small, but all argument was without avail. The amendment was voted down. Mr. Small informed the House that considerable work of this character had already been accomplished in North Carolina and that maps had been completed for additional work. The farmers, he said, were enthusiastic over the surveys made and found them of practical benefit. Mr. Henry called special attention to the importance of the surveys to tobacco growers. However, Major Moody, who is a member of the committee, succeeded some time ago in getting the appropriations so arranged that the State will not be entirely overlooked in this respect.

GROWTH OF THE UNIVERSITY.

The Catalogue of the University of North Carolina, just received, by its size and subject matter, indicates the growth of that institution. The list of the faculty includes 58 names and of this total 30 are of professional rank. The enrollment of students has reached the large total of 563, exclusive of the summer school which numbered 92. Of this number, 411 are enrolled in the college, 61 in the law school, 62 in the medical school and 29 in the school of pharmacy. The catalogue shows satisfactory progress in all phases of University work. Three new departments have been created, in Economics, Romance Languages and Botany.

THE CHARLOTTE EDUCATIONAL CONFERENCE A SUCCESS.

This county will accept the offer of the general educational board and will raise the \$6,000 needed to secure a gift of \$6,000. Of the \$12,000, \$4,000 will go to Henderson County. The rest will be distributed among the schools in this county. In less than half an hour last night about \$4,000 of the necessary \$6,000 was subscribed; and the canvassing committee is confident that it can obtain the necessary \$2,000 to-day.

The local subscriptions came after a series of earnest, brilliant speeches by men like Governor Aycock, Mr. Walter Page, Dr. Buttrick, Dr. C. D. McIver and others, and was a natural consequence of their masterful representation.—Charlotte Observer, 3rd.

General News.

WHAT THE DISPATCHES TELL.

The Facts Boiled Down and Presented in Convenient Form for Busy Readers.

Congressman Amos Cummings is dead.

The St. Louis World's Fair has been postponed to 1904.

General Passenger Agent Bunch, of the Seaboard Air Line Railway, has resigned.

The revolution in San Domingo is spreading and the position of the government is critical.

J. P. Morgan gets \$2,500,000 in the stock of the new steamship combine for his work in bringing it about.

Hereafter all government business messages between Roanoke Island and Hatteras will be sent by wireless telegraphy.

The Georgia Supreme Courts hold that while the anti-trust statute law of the State is unconstitutional, trusts may be proceeded against under the common law.

Queen Wilhelmina may now be considered out of danger. The pronounced improvement in her health has occasioned intense relief throughout Holland. The news is the one topic in the cafes, where people are congratulating each other as if on the recovery of a personal friend.

It is now believed that no further consideration will be given by the President to the subject of retiring Lieut. Gen. Miles so long as the commander of the army continues his present attitude of reserve, and that the case will be allowed to remain as it is unless Gen. Miles himself should do something or take some action to revive the determination of the President.

The President has informally announced to Mr. Henry Clay Evans that he will, in the near future, tender to him the position of Consul General of London, the place having become vacant through the death of William McKinley Osborne, cousin of the late President. The place carries a very lucrative employment and the appointment will be entirely in accord with the President's promise of a promotion to Mr. Evans.

Hon. J. Sterling Morton, of Nebraska, who was Secretary of Agriculture in the last Cleveland cabinet, died Sunday afternoon at the home of his son at Lake Forest, Ill. Mr. Morton was 70 years old and had been in failing health for several weeks, but his death was a great surprise to his friends. Mr. Morton was born in New York but located in Nebraska in the 50s. He had been engaged in newspaper work the most of his life.—Landmark.

Washington dispatch: Sol. Smith Russell, the actor, who had been in poor health for several years, died here yesterday. He was one of the quaintest and most delightful of comedians in a manner almost entirely his own. In gentle, humorous, wistful characters, shrewd and a little awkward, he was unsurpassed, and in some respects his art was not unlike that of Joseph Jefferson. Mr. Russell was born in Maine in 1848. He was a drummer boy in the Union army during the Civil War.

All of the general appropriation bills have now been reported with the exception of the general deficiency bill and the total to date is \$658,851,298. This amount is, of course, subject to some change as some of the bills have not been acted on by either the Senate or the House, either of which bodies may modify them. The naval appropriation bill, which has just been reported to the House, carries an aggregate appropriation of \$77,659,386 and provides for the construction of two first-class battle ships, two armored cruisers and two gun boats and for the increase of the naval enlisted force by 3,000 men.

The entire past week in the Senate has been occupied by Senators Rawlins, Carmack, Simmons and Teller with speeches in opposition to the Philippines Civil bill. The Senate Committee on Relations with Cuba has summoned the officials of the Sugar Trust to testify before it as to the extent of the holdings of the Trust of Cuban sugar. No action in regard to Cuban reciprocity has been taken, nor is there any likelihood of action for some time to come. The present prospects are not as favorable for an early adjournment as they were a short time ago and many of the Senators do not believe they will get away from Washington until sometime in July.

AFTER GERMAN POTASH.

The Fertilizer Trust Obtaining Options Abroad—Got Two Already and Has Others On Its String.

BERLIN, May 3.—The Virginia-Carolina Chemical Company, which is a large buyer of German potash, has been trying to acquire some works in the Hanover potash district. These negotiations are the only basis for the report that the company is seeking to acquire control of the entire German potash industry.

The Virginia-Carolina Company has obtained options on two potash companies and has received offers of sale from, or inquired the price of, several other companies. These are all small concerns and outside of the great potash syndicate, the ten associated properties are valued at 235,000,000 marks (about \$25,500,000). The Prussian government also owns potash fields of equal value. Agents of the Virginia-Carolina Chemical Company are making persistent efforts to gain a foothold in the potash industry here, and Dr. Schneider, the company's attorney, is examining into the titles of potash properties for them. Half of the potash produced in Germany is sent to the United States and it is believed that large intermediate profits could be saved if the American importers owned mines here.

The Disconto Gesellschaft is financially interested in potash, and a representative of this company has said he does not believe the American company will be successful in obtaining control of any potash concerns except those outside of the syndicate.

THE FRANCHISE IN VIRGINIA.

The Virginia Constitutional Convention, which began its work nearly a year ago, completed it early in April, and adjourned to convene again on May 22, for the purpose either of proclaiming the new organic law or else of submitting it to popular vote. Its chief problem was solved on April 4th by its adoption of an article dealing with the suffrage question. The Virginia plan adopts a principle that several other States have put into force, known as the "understanding clause," as a temporary expedient for a short period,—that is to say, until January 1st, 1904, local registrars may put on a permanent roll of voters all applicants otherwise qualified who are able either to read or to give a "reasonable" explanation of any section of the new constitution when read to them; this in addition to taxpayers and to old soldiers or their sons. That the general purpose of this clause is to give an opportunity for enrollment to white voters, while excluding illiterate negroes, is not denied by any one. Yet it does not follow, as many people assert, that there is anything radically unfair in this plan. Generally speaking, the illiterate white man possesses greater political capacity than the illiterate negro. The important part of a measure of this kind is not the temporary but the permanent method that it introduces. The permanent plan in Virginia is to be a yearly poll tax of \$1.50, besides which each applicant for registration must be able to write his application clearly and without assistance in the presence of the registrar. Quite regardless of any favoritism that may be shown to the white voters, the Southern franchise laws render an excellent service to the negro race when they require from the negro voters either educational or property qualification or both. The ballot is of no value whatever to the negro who is not fit to exercise it. The existence of reasonable qualifications as to literacy and property furnish excellent incentives to progress, valuable on all accounts and harmful on none. The best and wisest friends of the negro race are not worrying themselves at all about new Southern franchise laws. No Southern State has made provisions which exclude the negro of intelligence and property. The Virginia constitution provides for an improved educational system and advanced methods of control over railroads and other corporations.—From "The Progress of the World," in the American Monthly Review of Reviews for May.

We go on building mills, and instead of placing our young men in the best positions in them we are compelled to send to Northern States for competent overseers, superintendents and designers. This fact alone shows that industrial education is the foundation of industrial greatness.—Exchange

WHAT CONGRESS IS DOING; ALSO SOME SINS OF OMISSION.

The adjournment of the first session of the Fifty-seventh Congress is not yet in sight, but already it seems probable that several important measures will go over to the second and concluding session.

Among these is the ship subsidy bill, which has been passed by the Senate, but which, owing to the opposition it has provoked in the Middle West, may be held back in the House of Representatives, lest the passage of it should cloud the prospect of Republican success at the general election next November.

It is also doubtful whether the Nicaragua Canal bill which has been passed by the House and which has been favorably reported to the Senate by the Canal Committee of last named body, will be permitted to become a law at this session. If any bill relating to this subject is passed, it will probably empower the President to purchase the Panama Canal if a valid title to it can be given, and if not to proceed with the construction of the Nicaragua waterway.

There is not the slightest chance that the Senate will concur in the House resolution directing the submission to the States of a Constitutional amendment providing for the election of Senators by direct vote. Those who favor this reform may as well renounce the hope of obtaining any time the voluntary concurrence of the Senate. As we have previously pointed out, they should proceed under another clause of the Constitution, which prescribes that, when a demand is made by a designated number of States, Congress shall call a Constitutional Convention. Once called, however, such a convention could not be limited to the consideration of a particular amendment, but could propose any change it wished. The knowledge of this fact would coerce the Senate, if it saw that such a convention was imminent, into concurrence with the resolution lately passed by the House of Representatives.—Collier's Weekly.

THE DISASTROUS BOER WAR.

The number and the character of England's disasters in South Africa are remarkable. Never was a war conducted in modern times about which the world has appeared to have so little or so faulty knowledge. A British column of more than a thousand men, while on a march in an open country, is surprised by a handful of Boers, the British take to their heels, and their leader, Major General Methuen, is captured. The explanation hurriedly comes that the British forces were raw recruits, under fire for the first time, and that they could not be expected to stand like veterans. But England has been finding so many of these big and little Majuba Hills that she must soon run out of excuses. She does not seem to be able to prevent the possibility of such stupid blunders, although she has been at the business long enough to know what they cost her. But the fact is that there is nothing in the world harder to improve and reform than an ill-managed war. Corruption, favoritism, incompetence, and dry rot can live longer in it than they can in other human affairs. Mr. Lincoln knew sorrowfully how hard and how dangerous it is to swap horses in the tide of war, and so does Lord Salisbury. This South African War, for an all-round drama of folly, is without a rival. It is the folly of bond-holding greed, the folly of savage selfishness, and the folly of military and imperial vanity.—Success for May.

AMERICAN SCHOLARSHIPS AT OXFORD.

The will of Cecil Rhodes provides for the establishment at Oxford University of scholarships for students from every English speaking colony, and also from the United States. His plan is that two young men from each State and Territory of this country shall be appointed to these scholarships, each of which represents \$1,500 a year for three years. The will explains that it was Mr. Rhodes's purpose to encourage in the students from the United States who will benefit by these scholarships an attachment to the land from which they have sprung, but without withdrawing them or their sympathies from the land of their adoption or birth. The will provides also for five scholarships for German students, to be nominated by the Emperor. The fund available for these purposes amounts to about \$10,000,000.—Exchange.